

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INFORMAL NPG STAFF GROUP DISCUSSION OF NUNN AMENDMENT

SUMMARY. CDR MARTIN AND LT COL GOLDSTEIN (OFFICE OF ATSD (AE)) MET INFORMALLY WITH NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) MEMBERS ON OCTOBER 17 TO DISCUSS NUNN AMENDMENT. SG REPS' COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS PRIMARILY CONCERNED RELATION OF AGREED NATO POLICY AND ONGOING NPG WORK TO US STUDIES, AND WHILE RECOGNIZING US PREROGATIVES IN MEETING A DOMESTIC CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENT, DEMONSTRATED INTEREST OF ALLIES IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US. US OFFICERS ANSWERED QUESTIONS IN GENERAL TERMS, EMPHASIZING THAT US STUDIES WERE ONLY IN PRELIMINARY STAGES AND THAT THE US IS INTERESTED IN CONSULTING FULLY WITH THE ALLIES. SG REPS WERE PLEASED WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL DIALOGUE WITH US OFFICERS.

END SUMMARY.

1. IS ORGANIZED INFORMAL MEETING OF NPG STAFF GROUP MEMBERS ON OCTOBER 17 TO MEET WITH CDR MARTIN AND LT COL GOLDSTEIN TO DISCUSS US NUCLEAR STUDIES REQUIRED BY THE NUNN AMENDMENT

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PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO PROVIDE STAFF GROUP MEMBERS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AND SK QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FURTHER WORK ON NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES.

2. UK REP SAID HE HOPED THE US STUDIES WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF PAST NPG WORK. HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS ALSO IMPORTANT ON-GOING WORK IN THE NPG, PARTICULARLY PHASE II OF THE FOLLOW-ON USE STUDY PROGRAM AND THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY, WHICH WOULD SEEM ESPECIALLY RELEVANT, AND HE ASKED HOW U.S. STUDIES MIGHT REFLECT THEM. US OFFICERS SAID THAT US STUDIES WOULD DRAW FULLY ON PAST NPG WORK, AND SAID THAT ON-GOING NPG WORK WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZED THAT NPG WOULD PROBABLY NOT COMPLETE SOME OF THIS WORK PRIOR TO THE APRIL 1, 1975 DATE FOR NUNN AMENDMENT REPORT TO CONGRESS. THEY SAID THAT THE US STUDIES WOULD BE A QUOTE SNAPSHOT UNQUOTE OF THE STATUS OF US THINKING ON THEATER NUCLEAR POLICY WHICH THEY DID NOT FORESEE AS BEING DEFINITIVE NOR ANSWERING ALL POSSIBLE QUESTIONS. THEY EMPHASIZED THE EVOLUTIONARY NATURE OF THEATER NUCLEAR POLICY AND THE NECESSITY FOR CONTINUING REVIEW IN THE US AS WELL AS IN NATO.

3. FRG REP (COL VON ALTENBURG FROM FRG MOD, WHO SAT IN ON MEETING) NOTED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THEATER NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS THAT ALLEGEDLY UNDERLIE THE US STUDIES. HE SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT SOUND REASONS MAY EXIST TO REDUCE SOME OF THE STOCKPILE. BUT, HE SAID US AND NATO SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO DOWNGRADE IMPORTANCE OF THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES BECAUSE OF THEIR POSSIBLE BARGAINING VALUE IN MBFR. FRG REP ALSO SAID THAT LANGUAGE OF NUNN AMENDMENT SEEMS TO SUGGEST THAT NATO HAS NO RATIONAL AND CREDIBLE POLICY FOR USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE SAID THAT THE NATO STRATEGY IN MC 14/3, AS WELL AS KEY POLICY DOCUMENTS DEVELOPED BY THE NPG SUCH AS THE INITIAL USE GUIDELINES AND CONCEPT FOR THE ROLE OF THEATER NUCLEAR STRIKE FORCES AS A WHOLE ESTABLISH POLICY WHICH THE ALLIES REGARD AS CREDIBLE AND AS AN IMPORTANT REFLECTION OF ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY. HE SAID HE HOPED THE US WOULD NOT IGNORE OR PROPOSE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO EXISTING NATO POLICY.

4. US OFFICERS AGREED THAT AN IMPORTANT BODY OF POLICY ALREADY EXISTED AND THAT THE NUNN AMENDMENT PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THE CONGRESS IN THIS AREA AND DISPEL MISCONCEPTIONS. US OFFICERS SAID THEY DID NOT FORESEE US REPORT RECOMMENDING
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FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO NATO STRATEGY AND POLICY.

5. UK REP INQUIRED ABOUT RECENT CHANGES IN US STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND WORK BEING CONDUCTED ON SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING, AND THEIR IMPACT ON NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES. HE NOTED THAT THE CONCEPT FOR THE ROLE OF THEATER NUCLEAR STRIKE FORCES PAPER STATED THAT POSSIBILITY OF QUOTE PREPLANNING UNQUOTE SELECTIVE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS LIMITED. US OFFICERS SAID THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD DISCUSSED US EMPLOYMENT PLANNING WITH ALLIES AT BERGEN AND HE HAD CIRCULATED REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT AT JUNE 14 DPC MEETING. THEY SAID THEY DID NOT SEE EITHER THIS PLANNING OR THAT UNDERWAY AT SHAPE AS FUNDAMENTAL DEPARTURE FROM NATO POLICY, BUT RATHER AS EVOLUTIONARY IMPROVEMENT IN IMPL-

MENTATION OF AGREED POLICY.

6. SEVERAL STAFF GROUP REPS ASKED WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION ALLIES WOULD GET ON US STUDIES AND WHAT KINDS OF MECHANISMS FOR CONSULTATION THE US FORESAW. US OFFICERS EMPHASIZED THAT US STUDIES TO DATE WERE MAINLY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BACKGROUND DATA AND THAT US PLANS ON CONSULTATION HAD NOT BEEN WORKED OUT IN ANY DETAIL. HOWEVER, THEY EMPHASIZED US INTEREST IN CONSULTING FULLY WITH ALLIES.

7. SEVERAL STAFF GROUP REPS ACKNOWLEDGED HARD TASK BEFORE US AUTHORITIES IN PRODUCING A DIFFICULT REPORT IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD. WHILE EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO CONSULTATIONS, THEY RECOGNIZED THAT US WAS PREPARING A NATIONAL REPORT OVER WHICH IT MUST RETAIN FINAL SAY, IN PRECISELY THE SAME WAY ANY OTHER ALLY WOULD DO IN MEETING PARLIAMENTARY REQUIREMENTS. THEY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE IMPORTANT TO ALLIES ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT IN ORDER TO AVOID SURPRISES, TO UNDERSTAND US THINKING, AND TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR US AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ALLIED VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO TYPES OF CONSULTATIONS THE ALLIES MIGHT LIKE TO SEE, SG REPS SAID THEY, TOO, WERE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF THINKING THROUGH THIS QUESTION, BUT FELT THAT FURTHER DIALOGUES OF THIS SORT WITH US REPS WOULD SEEM TO BE VERY USEFUL.

8. US OFFICERS WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT INFORMALLY WITH NPG REPRESENTATIVES. THEY SAID US WAS ANXIOUS TO TAKE ALLIED VIEWS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN PREPARATION OF ITS
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REPORT FOR CONGRESS. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT SENATOR NUNN AND OTHERS BEHIND THE NUNN AMENDMENT WERE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF NATO AND OF THE DOD. THEY SAID THEY VIEWED THE REPORT REQUIRED OF SECDEF AS A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THIS CRITICAL ELEMENT OF THE QUOTE NATO TRIAD UNQUOTE WHICH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAS DISCUSSED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

9. MISSION COMMENT: IN OPINION OF MISSION OFFICERS PRESENT AT MEETING, CDR MARTIN AND LT COL GOLDSTEIN HANDLED QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM BY SG REPS EXTREMELY WELL. SG REPS WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS IMPORTANT MATTER WITH THEM, AND WILL REGARD MEETING AS A STEP IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS.
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